

REMARKS

In this preliminary amendment, claims 1-3 and 10 have been amended, claims 11, 12 and 17-26 have been cancelled, and claims 27-42 have been added. Claims 27-42 correspond to claims 31-46, which were previously filed and then cancelled in U.S. Application No. 09/612,176 (the '176 application). The present application is a continuation of the '176 application, which has now issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,747,734.

Applicants respectfully request consideration of the application in view of this preliminary amendment. If the Examiner has any questions or matters that can be expediently handled by telephone, he or she is encouraged to contact the undersigned at (206) 359-8000.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: Jan 13, 2008

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